



HOW OUR CANINE COUNSELORS ENHANCE THE HEALING PROCESS

The UK HealthCare Canine Counselors improve the experience of patients, families and staff through compassionate animal-assisted therapy interactions.

For patients and their caregivers, being in the hospital can be an overwhelming ordeal. That's where the UK HealthCare Canine Counselors come in.

The Canine Counselors program treats each interaction with a patient as an opportunity to provide a unique, enriching experience that only animal-assisted therapy can offer.

Our program also pursues research opportunities to enhance the efficacies of our non-invasive care methods.

Why is animal-assisted therapy used?

Animal-assisted therapy can help people recover from or cope with:

- Anxiety
- Cancer
- Heart disease
- Mental health disorders
- Stress

What kind of training do therapy dogs get?

Animal-assisted therapy consists of a "team" made up of a handler and their dog. The handler typically owns and trains the dog before going through an evaluation with a certification organization. Therapy dog organizations provide educational materials and evaluate volunteers and their dogs. They offer liability insurance for certified teams when volunteering in a therapy setting.

There are numerous local, national and international certification organizations, many of which are recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC) as a path toward achieving an AKC Therapy Dog title.

To request a Canine Councilor, scan the QR code with your phone's camera.



LEARN MORE

If you'd like additional information about how your dog can become a therapy dog, visit akc.org/sports/title-recognition-program/therapy-dog-program/.

You can also contact Animal-Assisted Therapy Coordinator Susan Pressly Lephart, PhD, with UK Integrated Medicine & Health at sp.lephart@uky.edu.